

must be adequate and appropriate training for individuals seeking to enter this important industry. Today, there is a program in place to meet that need. The National Center for Construction Education and Research administers a nationally recognized construction training program that allows individuals to advance at their own speed and competency to develop solid lifetime career opportunities. The merit shop believes work opportunities should be based on merit and recognizes the National Center for Construction Education and Research training programs as critical for today's workers.

No two individuals work at the same pace. That's why the merit shop is the perfect place to teach and develop careers for the construction workers of America. The merit shop, through organizations such as Associated Builders and Contractors, is committed to perfecting training programs that are both efficient and effective, in order to meet the need for a highly skilled construction work force.

An additional bonus of the merit shop apprenticeship programs is that they are excellent places for welfare recipients to gain on the job training and work experience through entry level jobs, which are the first step to obtaining the skills necessary to secure a career in the lucrative and rewarding field of construction. And merit shop contractors provide on the job work experience along with classroom training at the local level through nationally standardized and portable curricula.

On October 16, 1997, the industry reached out to 175,000 students, teachers, counselors, and parents at some 3,500 high schools and universities through a nationwide video teleconference sponsored by the National Center for Construction Education and Research on opportunities for entering the construction industry.

As the demand for highly trained and experienced construction workers increases, merit shops have consistently stepped in to fill that need. They will continue to offer Americans the training they need to fulfill the needs of the construction industry, and supply the increasing demands of economic growth in America. I applaud their efforts, and commend them for the excellent services they provide to the American people.

TRIBUTE TO THE THOUSAND OAKS SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary sister city effort between Thousand Oaks, CA and the City of Spitak in Armenia. In December 1988, Spitak was devastated by an earthquake which killed half its population. Thousand Oaks residents, led by Dr. Michael Hagopian, a prominent Armenian-American, coordinated a disaster relief effort by appealing to the community for donations and supplies.

The efforts were met with overwhelming community response which led to the formation of the Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee, a permanent link between the cities of Spitak and Thousand Oaks. Mayor Robert Lewis of Thousand Oaks and Mayor Arsen

Ohanian of Spitak formally established sister city ties in 1992.

That same year, then-Mayor Alex Fiore of Thousand Oaks helped launch a fund raising drive to rehabilitate an apartment building in Spitak which housed 20 displaced families. Thousand Oaks residents and businesses provided \$30,000 in this effort.

Since 1994 the Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee has sponsored Armenian-American cultural programs and educational and humanitarian efforts, including the Dr. Michael Hagopian Scholarship Fund. The committee has funded a community center and hostel while providing donations to orphans and families in Spitak.

The Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee has also sponsored exchange visits for students and representatives, including Mayor Suren Avetisyan and Sister City coordinator Edward Sarkisyan. Several committee members travel regularly between Thousand Oaks and Spitak.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize, in particular, several dedicated Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee founders and supporters, who have made great contributions to the sister city effort, including Mrs. Lauren Balekian, Mrs. Katie Bedrosian, Mrs. Annabelle Lee Darakjian, Mr. Raymond A. Garcia, Mr. Don Goodrow, Dr. Michael Hagopian, Mr. Sark Keochekian, Mrs. Judy Lazar, Mr. Michael Markey, Mr. Vasken Melkonian, Dr. Andrew Mikaelian, Ms. Caroline R. Milton, Mrs. Frances Prince, and Mrs. Nora Sahagian.

From the devastation of the 1988 earthquake was born a strong relationship between two geographically distant peoples. The efforts of residents of the Thousand Oaks community, on behalf of those in Spitak, has created an everlasting bond between Americans and the people of Armenia and Artsakh.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT P. MAURO

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a great man from Kansas City, Albert P. Mauro, as the first recipient of the American Citizen Award presented by the Southtown Council which for 15 years has brought together area businesses, associations, institutions, and neighborhoods to educate and strengthen our community. Mr. Mauro has served our community for over 40 years. In 1954 he was an assistant to City Manager L.P. Cookingham. He went on to lead the fight to end segregation at General Hospital. He was the public policy architect behind the vision for combining all the entities on hospital hill and more importantly the collaborative funding sources—that is, city, State, county, Federal, and so forth. No other complex has had such a diverse and complex fund mechanism. Through his work, the economic development of our area thrived. His leadership contributed tirelessly to the campaigns for the Boys and Girls Club, the Genesis School, and in securing the construction of the Deramus Education Pavilion at the Kansas City Zoo. Although he has retired as vice president and corporate secretary of Kansas City Southern Industries, he continues to chair

the downtown council and serves on numerous boards and civic associations.

Mr. Mauro's combination of compassion and ingenuity have produced a brighter future for Kansas City. I join with the Southtown Council in recognizing Mr. Mauro for his leadership, integrity, and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Mauro on his well-deserved receipt of the First Southtown Council American Citizen Award.

IN MEMORY OF KEVIN DUANE NEWSOME

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer words of gratitude and recognition for the wonderful life that Mr. Kevin Duane Newsome lead in his Houston community.

I was saddened at hearing of the passing of Mr. Kevin Duane Newsome: son, husband, father, colleague, and friend to those who knew him.

A child is a mother's and father's best hopes and dreams personified. A husband is a wife's best friend, companion, and advisor. A brother is a counselor, aide, and active participant in the lives of his siblings. A certified public accountant a counselor and aid to others. A businessman is a pillar for our community.

Mr. Kevin Duane Newsome was a father in the true sense of the word, man of the finest and most honored titles that anyone can hold in a life time.

His sons Kevin Jr. and Jarrad had there father for only a brief time, but they knew that he loved them through his commitment to them and their mother, Deborah.

There is a lot that I could say, but a day or a week, not even a month would allow me enough time to express all that Kevin Duane Newsome was to his mother, his wife, to his sons, to his sister, to his friends, to Wesley Chapel A.M.E. Church, or to Houston business community.

Kevin Duane Newsome was a native son of Houston, TX. For those who knew him best, Kevin was a role model. It is easy for all to see the importance of role models for children, but as adults we soon forget the importance of having our own role models who can provide visible signs of triumph over the complexities that life has to offer. Kevin taught us that truth matters, that honesty matters, and that fairness matters. Kevin Duane Newsome kept his focus on people and it showed in his relationship with his family and friends.

Kevin grew up in and attended Houston Independent School District schools. He obtained a bachelor in business administration in 1979 and a masters of business administration in 1984 from the University of Houston. Kevin's professional career included audit positions with Authur Anderson Co. and the city of Houston. In 1984, he joined Texaco, Inc., as an internal auditor. Most recently he was promoted to manager of quality human resources.

As the words of the Lord are recorded in St. John chapter 10, verse 27 to verse 30, He said:

My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. And I give unto them

eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Kevin heard the call for community and public service following graduation, he pledged and became an active member in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Xi Kappa Lambda Chapter. Kevin's civic activities included Houston Community College System Citizen's Advisory Board, Sam Houston Area Boy Scouts Speakers Bureau, University Oaks Civic Club, Junior Achievement, and University of Houston College of Business Alumni Board. Kevin's political involvement included candidate for Harris County treasurer in 1990, candidate for district clerk in 1994, Coalition of Black Democrats and alternate delegate to the 1992 Texas State convention.

In Isaiah chapter 40, verse 31, it is written: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

After a bout with multiple myeloma, Kevin Duane Newsome passed away on Sunday, September 14, 1997. He leaves to cherish his memories his wife, Deborah; two sons, Kevin Duane, Jr. and Jarrad Anthony; mother Mable L., and a sister Kimberly.

I would like to offer the Newsome Family my deepest sympathy at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO TERESENA (TERRY)
WISE BRYANT

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Teresena Wise Bryant, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service and education. She was honored on October 17 by parents, family, friends, and professionals for her outstanding contributions to the community at the Eighth Annual Salute to Excellence Awards Dinner hosted by the 163d Street Improvement Council, Inc. in New York.

Born in Florida, Ms. Bryant, known as Terry by her friends, moved to New York City in 1964 after receiving a bachelor's degree from Florida A&M University. In 1977, she earned a master's degree in public administration at New York University. She has shown the importance of life-long learning as she has continued to take postgraduate courses in educational fields.

Through her years of service, she worked for several governmental agencies. Her career started as an assistance bookkeeper with Standard Motors. Later she worked as a homebound instructor with the White Plains Board of Education before she was hired as a teacher of recreation in the New York City Board of Education/Continuing Education Division. Within 6 months, she was recommended and hired as director of community education, Mohegan Community Center/P.S. 67 in the Bronx. She went on to become assistance executive director of contract development for the Youth Board/Bureau/Youth Services Agency. In 1987, Terry returned to the New York City Board of Education as special assistant to the Bronx board member.

Terry clearly believes that electoral politics is honorable public service. For 18 years, she

was the campaign manager and confidential/political assistant to the late State Senator Joseph L. Galiber and she managed the election campaign for Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson, the first and only African-American district attorney in the State of New York. She is an expert in redistricting and reapportionment of Councilmanic, State Assembly, and senatorial as well as congressional lines.

The business, professional, religious, and civil organizations to which she belonged, like the honors and awards she was given are almost beyond counting. Terry retired last year after a fruitful career in public service. Ms. Bryant leaves us with many lessons learned in community service, leadership in education, and wisdom. A talented leader and educator, Ms. Bryant will continue sharing her knowledge and views with her family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Teresena Wise Bryant for her outstanding achievements in education and her enduring commitment to the community.

IN HONOR OF DOMINICK DELLA
ROCCA "THE LEGENDARY PIED
PIPER"

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the pleasures of serving in this legislative body is the opportunity we occasionally get to acknowledge the outstanding pillars of our communities. In my neighborhood that pillar is Mr. Dominick Della Rocca. He represents what it is to be an exceptional human being, for without hesitation he has given so much of himself.

Before and after his World War II service, Mr. Della Rocca participated in and helped to organize neighborhood baseball games. Over the years, and with much local support, he developed many community activities for the young people of the neighborhood like the Buck Wingo Athletic League and the Fort Greene Civic Center.

His attention later turned toward the needs of handicapped children. With the generous help of a lifelong friend, he helped start Camp Montebello for Blind Children. What started as a modest effort transformed into a project of love which permitted children with visual impairments to participate in camp activities like so many of their peers.

Over the years many in the community have come to know, love and admire Della Rocca's natural ability to bring people together. There are few out there today who can turn charity into fun and excitement, something you love and look forward to performing time and time again. It was the popularity he gained from his charitable works that earned him the title of Executive Chief Mayor of the Locality Mayors. It has been in this capacity where he has focused the attention of the Community Mayors (also known as Locality Mayors) onto the needs of handicapped children of the area.

The Community Mayors, with the generous donations of many local businesses and neighbors, have been able to raise over \$160 million to fund a number of programs for handicapped children. Events such as Oper-

ation Santa Claus, the Mets at Shea Stadium, Astroland at Coney Island and an exchange student journey from Milan, Italy to Brooklyn, NY are but a few of the activities which have brought much joy to the children with special needs in our community.

However, one of Della Rocca's greatest and most impressive achievements remains receiving the highest humanitarian honor from the Roman Catholic Church. Della Rocca was knighted by the Pope to the Magistral Knight of Sovereign Military Order of Malta. We are all very proud of this magnificent accomplishment.

In honor of his 50 years of service as a Community Mayor and for helping bring joy and hope into the lives of 3,200,000 special needs children, I rise today to salute this generous individual. Thank you Mr. Della Rocca for setting such a wonderful example for us all, I hope others will follow in your footsteps and spread your good works.

IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF BOATERS
IN SOUTHERN LAKE MICHIGAN

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of locating a Coast Guard search and rescue helicopter in the southern end of Lake Michigan. Currently, there is only one Coast Guard search and rescue helicopter which serves southern Lake Michigan. Until 1995, this helicopter was located at the Coast Guard Air Station Chicago in Glenview, IL. In 1995, the Glenview facility was downgraded to a seasonal air facility. Subsequently, the Coast Guard decided to move the helicopter facility to Muskegon, MI. While the justification for the move from Glenview is clear, I respectfully disagree with the Coast Guard's choice of Muskegon as the alternative location for the air facility. Located 120 nautical miles from the southern end of Lake Michigan, Muskegon is simply too far away from where the majority of boating activities and accidents occur in Lake Michigan. I believe the Gary Regional Airport, in Gary, IN, is a more appropriate location for the facility.

Events during the course of the last few months have highlighted the need for a helicopter rescue team which can respond quickly to emergencies in southern Lake Michigan. On April 6, two fishermen died in a boating accident near east Chicago, IN, despite search efforts by boat and helicopter. A Coast Guard rescue helicopter had already been flying for more than an hour when it arrived in Gary, IN, to refuel and join the search for the missing boaters. The Coast Guard estimates that a person wearing a lifejacket can survive for about 4 hours in 40-degree water. It is clear that even 1 hour could mean the difference between life and death when boaters are in an emergency situation in Lake Michigan.

In June of this year, a man and his disabled jetski floated for 2 nights off a Chicago beach, waiting to be rescued. This event highlights the fact that emergencies which require helicopter search and rescue response occur within a few hundred yards of Chicago's beaches. Although this man was fortunate to